(c) Site Selection Committee has assessed sites for location of Atomic Power Stations ' in the northern electricity region of which Himachal Pradesh is a constituent State. The report of the Site Selection Committee is undei- examination of the Government.

Prime Minister's Observation on Afghanistan

1037. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT: SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister in his address to the Joint Session of the US Congress made certain observations on the political settlement in Afghanistan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is laid on the table of the House. *(See* below).

Statement

Following is the extract from the Prime Minister's address to the US Congress on June 13, 1985: —

"Afghanistsn and South-west Asia are on all our minds. Outside interference and intervention have put in jeopardy the stability, security and progress of the region. We are opposed to both foreign presences and pressures. The one is advanced as a justification for the other. We stand for a political settlement in Afghanistan that ensure sovereignty, integrity, independence and nonaligned status, and enables the refugees to return to their homes in safety and honour. Such a settlement can only come through dialogue and a realistic consensus among the parties directly concerned. The UN Secretary-General has taken an initiative in this direction. We fully support that initiative."

Cracks in the endshield of the first unit of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station

1038. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT; SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased t_0 state:

(a) what steps have been taken to ensure that the cracks which have been plugged in the endshield of the first unit of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station would not recur;

Ob) whether it is a fact that the endshield has become brittle due to constant exposure to radiation;

(c) whether Units I and II of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant are operating; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the action take$_n$ so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a), and (b) The endshield of Unit-I of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant has shown signs of embrittlement due to heat treatment during construction. Special operating procedures have been laid down to improve the structural integrity of the endshield.

(c) and (d) Unit-I is under an inspection outage whereafter repairs will b$_e$ carried out as necessary. Unit-II I is operational.